

INTRODUCING THE LENA HORNE  
RECOGNITION ACT

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2011*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Lena Horne Recognition Act, a bill to posthumously honor Lena Horne with a Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of her many achievements and contributions to American culture and the Civil Rights Movement. A symbol of elegance and grace, the legendary Lena Horne entertained America and broke racial barriers as a singer, dancer, and actress for over 60 years. Ms. Horne passed away a year ago yesterday, in New York City on May 9, 2010 at the age of 92.

Lena Mary Calhoun Horne was born on June 30, 1917, in Brooklyn, New York. Her path to international stardom would take her from Harlem's famous Cotton Club, where she was hired as a chorus dancer at the age of 16, to Charlie Barnet's jazz band, where she became one of the first African American women to tour with an all-white band, to Hollywood and Broadway.

In the 1940s, Ms. Horne was discovered by a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM) talent scout and moved to Hollywood to be an actress, becoming the first black artist to sign a long-term contract with a major studio. Despite her extraordinary beauty and talent, however, she was often limited to minor acting roles because of her race. Among many lost opportunities, studio executives cast fellow actress Ava Gardner as Julie in the film adaptation of *Show Boat* instead of Ms. Horne because they did not want it to star a black actress. However, she dazzled audiences and critics in a number of films, including *Cabin in the Sky* and *Stormy Weather*.

The struggle for equal and fair treatment was an inseparable and increasingly political part of Ms. Horne's life. During World War II, Ms. Horne toured extensively with the United Service Organizations, USO on the West Coast and in the South in support of the troops. She was out-spoken in her criticism of the way black soldiers were treated, refusing to sing for segregated audiences or to groups in which German prisoners of war were seated in front of African American servicemen.

During the period of McCarthyism in the 1950s, Ms. Horne was blacklisted as a communist for seven years because of her civil rights activism and friendship with Paul Robeson and W.E.B. Du Bois. Although she continued to face discrimination, Ms. Horne's career flourished in television and on nightclub stages across the country. It was during this time that she also established herself as a major recording artist. In 1957, she recorded *Lena Horne at the Waldorf-Astoria*, which reached the Top 10 and became the best-selling album by a female singer in RCA Victor's history.

Ms. Horne used her talent and fame to become a powerful voice for civil rights and

equality. In 1963, she participated in the historic March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, at which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his immortal "I Have a Dream" speech. She also performed at rallies throughout the country for the National Council for Negro Women and worked with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), of which she was the cover girl for their monthly bulletin at the age of 2, in addition to being a member of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority.

In 1981, Ms. Horne finally received the big break she had waited for her whole life—a one-woman Broadway show. *Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music*, was the culmination of her triumphs and struggles. It enjoyed a 14-month run before going on tour and earned her a special Tony award for distinguished achievement in theater and two Grammys. Ms. Horne was also the recipient of the Kennedy Center honor for lifetime contribution to the arts in 1984 and in 1989 received a lifetime achievement Grammy Award. She received two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame—for her work in both motion pictures and recording—in addition to a footprint on the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site.

Mr. Speaker, Lena Horne was an extraordinary woman who refused to give up her dreams and used her beauty, talent, and intelligence to fight racial discrimination. I urge my colleagues to support the Lena Horne Recognition Act to honor the life and legacy of Ms. Lena Horne with a Congressional Gold Medal.

RECOGNIZING JIM MANDICH

**HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2011*

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of Miami Dolphins legend Jim Mandich.

Jim "Mad Dog" Mandich died on April 26th at the age of 62, after a valiant battle with bile duct cancer for more than a year.

He was a beloved and respected member of the South Florida community known for his warmth and generosity to those in need.

To longtime Dolphins fans, Mandich is remembered as the hard-nosed tight end on the two Super Bowl championship teams in the early 1970s.

Over eight seasons in the National Football League, all but one with the Miami Dolphins, he caught 121 passes, for 1,406 yards and 23 touchdowns.

But on the field he will best be remembered for always giving it his all on every play.

Earning the nickname "Mad Dog" for his all-out efforts on special teams, his teammates point out that he was the heart and soul of the undefeated team in 1972—the only undefeated season by an NFL team in the Super Bowl era. He then helped them repeat as Super Bowl champions the following season.

To younger Dolphins fans, he was the "voice" of the Dolphins. In 1992, the "Mad Dog" became the Dolphins radio color commentator, but to thousands of "Dol-fans" he simply became their voice. For nearly 20 years, Mandich grew a massive following for his all-out support of the team and his signature call, "Awwwwww-right Miami!"

Friends described how tough Jim was in his battle with cancer. Despite receiving chemotherapy and radiation, Mandich called every Dolphins game last season.

Fittingly, the Dolphins opened up Sun Life Stadium last Wednesday so that thousands of fans could pay their respects. He is survived by his wife Bonnie and their three sons.

May we rejoice in the profound joy Jim brought to those privileged to know him. He will be missed by the thousands of fans who cheered him on the football field and later, listened to him on the radio. He will be sorely missed and never replaced.

CELEBRATING ISRAEL'S 63RD  
ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2011*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, and to mark the 63rd anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel.

Despite enduring decades of war and terror, Israel has emerged as a strong and vibrant democracy, a close U.S. friend and ally, and a global leader in technology, energy, and scientific innovation.

For me, as a Jew, ties to Israel are very personal. Growing up, I saved my money to buy tree certificates to help make the Israeli desert bloom. As a member of Congress, I continue to be a strong supporter of the State of Israel, of a vibrant U.S.-Israel relationship, and of a peaceful and secure future for Israel and the entire region.

The U.S.-Israel relationship, begun a mere minutes after Israel's founding, remains critically important to both our nations. Based on shared values and interests, this deep and abiding friendship is as important now as ever, in the face of international threats and a growing tide of delegitimization.

In February, I traveled to Israel with the Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago. In addition to discussions about regional developments and critical security issues, I also had the opportunity to learn more about Israel's excellent social programs as well as cutting edge research into green technology. As with previous trips to Israel, I left with both great pride and a renewed hope for a lasting peace solution.

Today, we mark the 63rd anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel, our steadfast friend, ally, and partner, and we reaffirm the unbreakable bonds between our two countries.